

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper  
Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Department of Defense  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

The Honorable Katherine Kelley  
Superintendent  
Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Avenue  
Arlington, VA 22211

Dear Secretary Esper and Superintendent Kelley,

As proud Americans and Members of Congress, we believe the true intent of Congress has been muddled by the current policy banning the display of American flags by visitors at Arlington National Cemetery. It has come to our attention that under current policy, visitors at Arlington National Cemetery, including veterans and veteran families, are prohibited from carrying our American flag when they visit Arlington. This particular ban must be lifted immediately, especially at a national cemetery of all places. If a visitor to Arlington wishes to carry an American flag, they should be permitted to do so and without any requirement to request prior approval.

In 2006, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act was signed into law in an attempt to terminate the repugnant protests taking place at fallen service members' funerals. Ironically, in the struggle to abolish disrespectful behavior within the cemetery, this policy has also prevented the way many Americans instinctively honor and remember our veterans - by proudly waving our American flag. We strongly urge you to promptly revise cemetery policy and to lift the ban on visitors displaying the U.S. flag. Disrespectful behavior of any kind, including demonstrations at funerals can and must remain banned while restoring the right of proud Americans to display our nation's flag when they visit one of our country's most sacred sites.

Arlington National Cemetery as you both well know serves as a shrine for more than 400,000 former service members and their families, who have honorably served our nation during times of war and peace. In honoring these service members, the cemetery has grown to one of our nation's largest symbols of patriotism and commitment to our great country.

Perhaps the most recognized symbol of the American spirit, freedom, democracy and all that our Founding Fathers fought relentlessly to achieve, is our American flag. Old Glory, however, remains a prohibited item for visitors of Arlington National Cemetery. As a nation and as proud citizens, we owe it to each and every service member interred at Arlington to promptly revise this policy.

Sincerely,



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



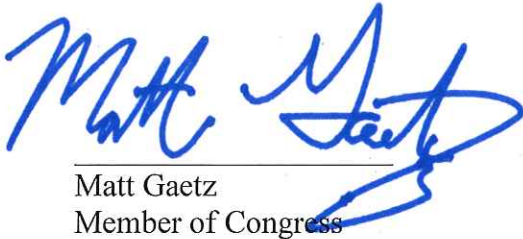
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne  
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



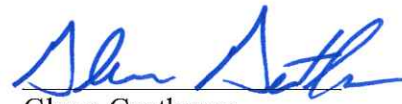
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



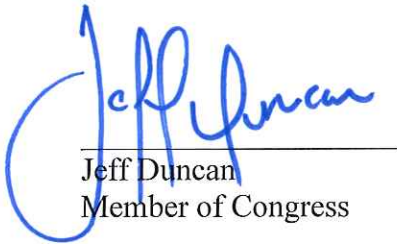
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



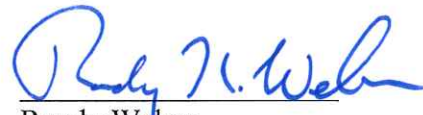
Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Denver Lee Riggleman III  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
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Cc:

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan  
Acting Secretary of Defense  
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